



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.6960 | FAX (517) 373.0897

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/jelinek/

For Immediate Release
December 8, 2005

Contact: Sen. Ron Jelinek
1-866-305-2121

Senate passes package preserving Michigan's waters

LANSING – The Senate unanimously approved legislation today to provide comprehensive regulations for water use in Michigan, said Sen. Ron Jelinek, R-Three Oaks.

Senate Bills 850-852, 854 and 857 create new standards for water withdrawals and permit programs for water users to help them avoid adverse impacts on the environment. These new regulations would help prevent a water crisis in the future and help preserve the Great Lakes for future generations.

“There are many farmers in southwest Michigan who will benefit from these regulations and the protections it offers them when using water for crop irrigation and livestock,” Jelinek said. “I’m pleased to see standards and management systems be put in place to protect our water while ensuring Michigan’s economy is not adversely affected.”

The package will:

- Put in place a system to manage significant new water withdrawals that have the potential to impact our water and water-dependent natural resources;
- Implement an interim standard that will provide protections for key designated trout streams by defining critical zones around the streams;
- Develop an easy-to-use model to replace the interim standard that will allow a user to click on a map and determine if water use will cause an adverse impact;
- Implement a permitting program for the largest water users in the state; and
- Authorize the creation of groups of water users to work with the DEQ in crafting water plans that resolve water use problems before adverse impacts occur.

The legislation now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

###